

Ag Report

In cooperation with

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United States Wage Rates Up 3 Percent

There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 survey week, up 25 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October. Livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Farm Labor: Employment and Wage Rates, United States October 10-16, 2004 with Comparisons ¹

Farm Employment	October 12-18, 2003	July 11-17, 2004	October 10-16, 2004
		1,000	
Hired Workers	891	961 *	851
150 Days or More	626	637	605
149 Days or Less	265	324 *	246
Agricultural Services			
Workers Working on Farms	306	343 *	322
Hired Farm & Service Workers	1,197	1304 *	1,173
		Hours Per Week	
Hours Worked, Hired Workers	40.2	39.2 *	40.5
		Dollars Per Hour	
Wage Rate for			
All Hired Workers ^{2,3}	9.05	9.04 *	9.30
Field & Livestock Combined	8.47	8.43 *	8.67
Field	8.42	8.34 *	8.60
Livestock	8.64	8.74 *	8.91

* Revised.

¹ Excludes AK.

² Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

³ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

**Hired Workers: Wage Rates for Type of Workers and All Hired Workers,
by Region and United States, October 10-16, 2004 ¹**

United States and Region	Type of Worker			Wage Rates for All Hired Workers
	Field	Livestock	Field & Livestock Combined	
Dollars Per Hour				
Northeast I	9.37	8.64	9.10	9.81
Northeast II	8.84	8.90	8.85	9.59
Appalachian I	8.38	8.30	8.35	8.94
Appalachian II	7.75	7.56	7.70	8.14
Southeast	8.01	8.08	8.03	8.56
Florida	7.95	9.10	8.05	9.14
Lake	9.06	9.51	9.20	9.77
Cornbelt I	9.40	9.40	9.40	9.98
Cornbelt II	9.00	9.38	9.16	9.72
Delta	7.78	8.23	7.91	8.17
Northern Plains	9.70	9.00	9.50	9.76
Southern Plains	8.44	8.68	8.53	9.34
Mountain I	8.25	8.62	8.40	8.84
Mountain II	8.32	8.95	8.56	9.40
Mountain III	7.03	8.04	7.36	7.75
Pacific	9.32	9.23	9.31	9.81
California	8.37	9.57	8.57	9.28
Hawaii ²	9.97		10.01	11.52
United States ³	8.60	8.91	8.67	9.30

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.² Insufficient data for livestock.³ Excludes AK.

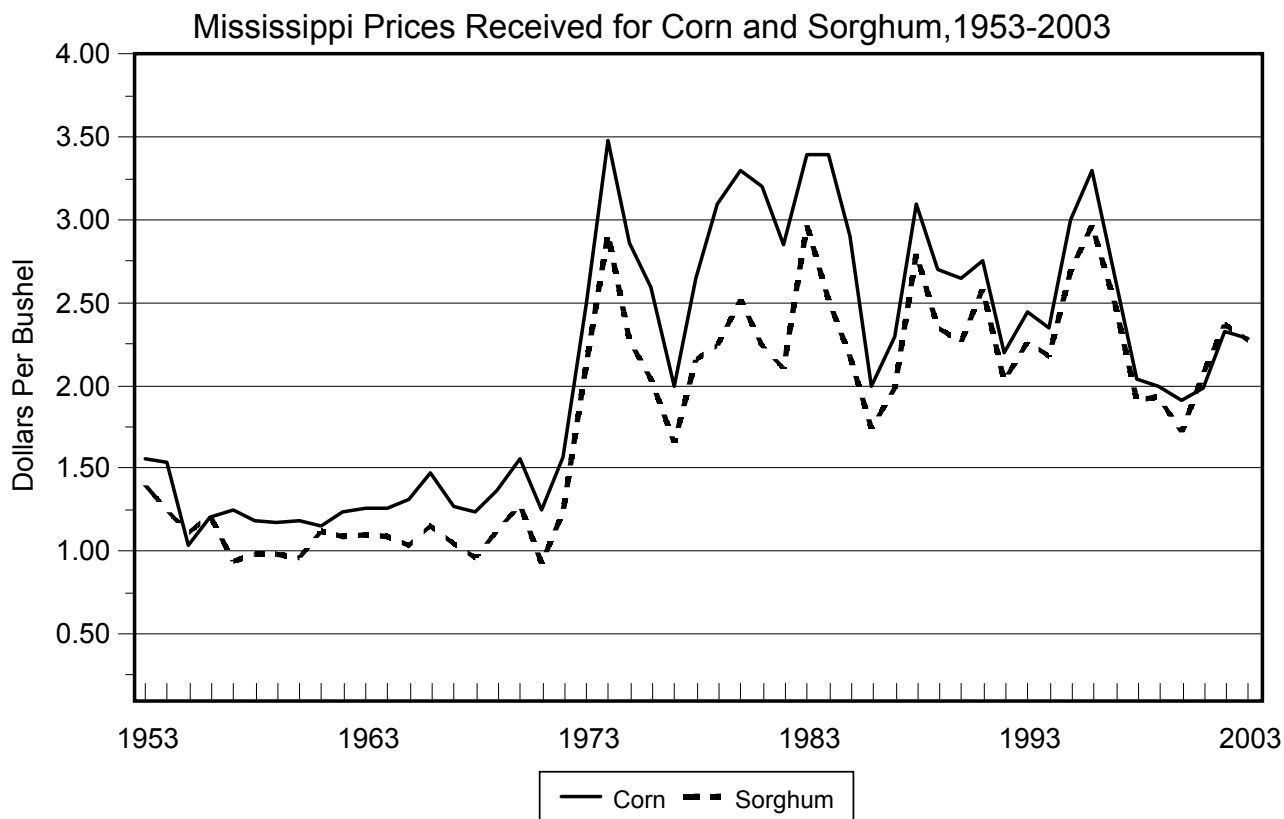
**All Hired Workers: Number and Hours Worked, by Selected States, Region
and United States, October 12-18, 2004 ¹**

United States and Region	Number of Workers	Expected to be Employed		Number of Hours Worked
		150 Days or More ²	149 Days of Less ²	
		1,000		Hours Per Week
Southeast	38	26	12	38.9
Florida	49	43	6	39.1
Delta	31	20	11	37.0
Northern Plains	35	25	10	43.8
Southern Plains	54	43	11	41.7
Pacific	76	44	32	37.6
California	230	179	51	42.7
Hawaii	7	6	1	38.9
United States ²	891	626	265	40.2

¹ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.² Excludes AK.

**Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned (Excluding Linters) Prior to
November 15, by Crop, State, and United States, Crop Years 2001-2004**

Crop and State	Running Bales Ginned			
	2001	2002	2003	2004
All Cotton				
Alabama	464,700	334,950	452,000	517,150
Arizona	321,200	305,350	215,850	281,800
Arkansas	1,485,600	1,253,350	1,340,700	1,408,650
California	1,099,500	954,850	737,550	1,071,600
Florida	73,850	30,550	71,000	58,650
Georgia	1,070,150	733,250	987,400	1,083,900
Louisiana	926,400	582,700	973,750	773,100
Mississippi	1,828,550	1,359,450	1,808,200	1,828,550
Missouri	551,350	432,900	443,550	540,650
New Mexico	39,350	20,250	25,200	19,400
North Carolina	749,550	416,300	460,900	833,950
Oklahoma	92,300	85,350	77,800	103,200
South Carolina	259,400	56,950	137,400	235,400
Tennessee	771,350	555,450	577,000	622,750
Texas	2,742,400	2,096,050	2,151,750	2,544,550
Virginia	82,300	47,250	46,950	83,350
United States	12,557,950	9,264,950	10,507,000	12,006,650



United States Catfish: Sales, Averages Price and Ending Inventory, October 2003-2004

Item	Sales Volume		Average Price		Ending Inventory	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Pounds		Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
Fresh						
Whole Fish	3,231	3,076	1.36	1.59	183	151
Fillets ¹	6,082	4,992	2.49	2.76	495	490
Other ²	1,361	1,263	1.58	1.72	117	109
Total Fresh	10,674	9,331	2.03	2.23	795	750
Frozen						
Whole Fish	1,383	1,128	1.84	1.88	936	577
Fillets ¹	10,924	10,717	2.39	2.60	6,706	9,239
Other ²	4,894	4,687	1.37	1.38	2,524	2,203
Total Frozen	17,201	16,532	2.06	2.21	10,166	12,019
Total Fresh & Frozen	27,875	25,863	2.05	2.22	10,961	12,769

¹ Includes regular, shank, and strip fillets; excluding any breaded products.

² Includes all products and not already reported including weight of breading and added ingredients.

United States Farm-Raised Catfish: Quantity Processed, Prices Paid to Producers by Major Processors, and United States Imports, 2003-2004

Month	Round Weight Processed				Average Price Paid to Producers ¹		Imports of Catfish ²	
	Monthly		Cumulative					
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000 Pounds				Dollars Per Pound		1,000 Pounds	
January	55,523	53,849	55,523	53,849	.529	.668	1,322	215
February	55,461	54,173	110,984	108,022	.544	.703	260	204
March	65,007	60,272	175,991	168,294	.585	.723	332	295
April	57,105	53,896	233,096	222,190	.630	.728	272	328
May	58,424	52,324	291,520	274,514	.618	.720	703	248
June	52,441	50,155	343,961	324,669	.586	.689	893	270
July	54,089	51,055	398,050	375,724	.564	.682	435	123
August	54,153	53,295	452,203	429,019	.552	.683	135	1,637
September	51,885	51,329	504,088	480,348	.560	.683	150	1,801
October	57,652	52,396	561,740	532,744	.567	.695	384	
November	51,246		612,986		.610		331	
December	48,518		661,504		.629		213	

¹ Price for fish delivered to processing plant door. Price excludes charges for any services provided by the processing plant, such as seining and hauling, but does not include adjustments based on year-end settlements.

² Pounds of frozen boneless fillets. Includes Ictalurus, Pangasius and Siluriformes catfish. Data furnished by U.S. Bureau of Census.

Chicken Eggs in Incubators, by Region and United States, November 1, 2003-2004

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	2003	2004	2004/2003	2003	2004	2004/2003
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
North Atlantic	11,028	12,296	111	5,002	6,594	132
East North Central	8,212	8,582	105	5,715	7,728	135
West North Central	19,507	20,022	103	7,123	8,097	114
South Atlantic	215,623	222,397	103	2,040	3,757	184
South Central	310,782	320,431	103	4,827	5,904	122
West	22,771	23,866	105	4,381	4,921	112
United States	587,923	607,594	103	29,088	37,001	127

Layers and Eggs Production, by Selected States and United States, October 2003-2004

State	All Layers on Hand ¹		Table Eggs ²		Hatching Egg ²	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	1,000			Million Eggs		
Alabama	9,436	9,233	48	44	135	135
Arkansas	14,778	14,390	97	101	188	177
Florida	10,926	11,302	237	254	9	7
Georgia	20,200	20,323	259	263	173	172
Mississippi	6,760	7,007	44	39	90	98
North Carolina	10,576	10,826	83	83	128	131
Oklahoma	4,046	4,016	45	45	33	34
South Carolina	5,408	5,222	101	95	19	20
Virginia	2,990	3,163	27	33	32	35
United States	335,333	344,194	6,381	6,559	1,058	1,084

¹ Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size.

² Data by type of flock not shown for some States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched, by Selected States and United States, October 2003-2004

State	October			January-October		
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	1,000		Percent	1,000		Percent
Alabama	101,931	106,237	104	1,030,087	1,095,206	106
Arkansas	108,555	108,403	100	1,094,623	1,125,194	103
Florida	4,977	4,933	99	52,538	48,767	93
Georgia	113,151	116,221	103	1,142,731	1,190,327	104
Kentucky	23,397	23,912	102	239,950	252,676	105
Mississippi	65,873	69,188	105	692,807	714,273	103
North Carolina	60,023	63,039	105	646,770	654,774	101
Texas	51,365	53,247	104	530,162	544,829	103
United States	734,961	757,530	103	7,592,024	7,807,118	103

Commercial Red Meat Production: By State and United States
October 2004 with Comparisons ¹

State	October	September	October	October 2004 as % of ²	
	2003	2004	2004	October 2003	September 2004
Alabama	3.6	2.6	2.9	80	110
Arkansas	5.9	4.7 *	4.9	82	104
Florida	5.6	3.6	4.7	84	131
Georgia	19.9	14.5	15.9	80	110
Kentucky	48.0	43.0	41.2	86	96
Louisiana	1.5	1.0	1.1	75	112
Mississippi	29.1	28.0	29.9	103	107
Missouri	42.2	38.5	43.0	102	112
North Carolina	214.8	193.5	190.0	88	98
Oklahoma	92.8	84.1	89.1	96	106
South Carolina	22.3	20.6	21.0	94	102
Tennessee	25.1	18.8	18.3	73	98
Texas	405.4	401.0	386.5	95	96
United States	4,158.3	3,905.3	3,921.2	94	100

* Revised.

¹ Includes total beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton.² Percentages based on unrounded data.

Corn and Sorghum: Marketing Year Average Prices Received,
by Selected States and United States, 2002-2003

State	Corn		Sorghum	
	2002	2003	2002	2003
	Dollars Per Bushel		Dollars Per Cwt.	
Alabama	2.72	2.36	4.10	4.10
Arkansas	2.43	2.37	4.40	4.18
Georgia	2.70	2.45	4.64	4.10
Kentucky	2.58	2.53	4.68	4.55
Louisiana	2.40	2.40	4.30	4.30
Mississippi	2.33	2.28	4.24	4.05
Missouri	2.45	2.46	4.22	4.29
North Carolina	2.89	2.68	4.40	4.10
Oklahoma	2.45	2.60	4.11	4.16
South Carolina	2.70	2.70	4.11	4.11
Tennessee	2.58	2.37	4.78	4.30
Texas	2.57	2.59	4.18	4.13
Virginia	2.73	2.57	3.91	3.70
United States	2.32	2.42	4.14	4.26

Farm Business Average Net Cash Income Forecasts, United States, 2002-2004

	Average 1998 - 2002	2002	2003	2004f	2004f / 1998-2002 Average	2003 / 2002	2004f / 2003	Share of U.S. Farm Businesses
	1,000 Per Farm				Percent			
Farm Size								
Commercial farms	143.5	129.6	162.4	178.3	24.3	25.3	9.8	8.8
Intermediate farms	11.6	9.0	15.6	16.3	40.3	73.3	4.5	23.7
Rural residence farms	-1.4	-2.9	-2.8	-3.2	-129.2	3.4	-14.3	67.5
All farm businesses ¹	41.6	37.4	55.2	60.0	44.2	47.6	8.7	100.0
Resource region:								
Heartland	40.7	31.2	59.4	69.3	70.4	90.4	16.7	22.7
Northern Crescent	41.8	33.7	40.3	50.8	21.7	19.6	26.1	16.1
Northern Great Plains	47.0	48.8	69.8	66.7	41.8	43.0	-4.4	6.8
Prairie Gateway	31.0	25.9	53.0	50.9	64.0	104.6	-4.0	14.3
Eastern Uplands	14.8	12.1	17.1	18.3	24.0	41.3	7.0	11.0
Southern Seaboard	30.3	33.0	46.4	50.8	67.8	40.6	9.5	9.1
Fruitful Rim	84.7	77.2	92.1	96.0	13.3	19.3	4.2	12.1
Basin and Range	43.2	46.0	64.2	60.4	39.9	39.6	-5.9	3.6
Mississippi Portal	42.7	56.7	78.1	90.2	111.3	37.7	15.5	4.3
Commodity specialization:								
Program crops								
Mixed grain	41.7	36.3	73.7	75.8	81.8	103.0	2.8	8.3
Wheat	31.9	32.0	52.8	51.7	62.3	65.0	-2.1	3.8
Corn	46.3	42.6	62.1	64.2	38.8	45.8	3.4	9.9
Soybeans and peanuts	26.8	31.7	47.3	48.8	82.0	49.2	3.2	4.1
Cotton and rice	93.3	118.2	125.3	143.8	54.1	6.0	14.8	2.5
Non-program crops--								
Other field crops	26.0	23.1	41.9	40.9	57.1	81.4	-2.4	11.2
Specialty crops	104.7	106.8	112.7	97.6	-6.8	5.5	-13.4	9.5
Livestock--								
Beef cattle	14.7	12.1	28.2	21.1	43.3	133.1	-25.2	27.2
Hogs	79.3	69.6	154.1	283.7	257.7	121.4	84.1	1.5
Poultry	70.1	36.1	88.4	113.7	62.2	144.9	28.6	3.9
Dairy	84.9	74.7	69.3	112.9	33.0	-7.2	62.9	9.4
Other livestock	6.8	-1.2	5.5	9.6	40.7	558.3	74.5	8.6

¹ Commercial and intermediate farms only.

f = Forecast.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA.

Mississippi and United States Price Highlights, November 2004 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	November 2003 Entire Month		October 2004 Entire Month		November 2004 Mid-Month	
		MS	US	MS	US	MS	US
Dollars							
Corn	bu	---	2.20	---	2.15	---	2.00
Cotton, Upland	lb	.620	.630	.482	.495	.477 ¹	.471 ¹
Sorghum, grain	cwt	---	4.13	---	3.15	---	3.07
Soybeans	bu	6.64	7.05	5.69	5.56	5.38	5.31
Winter Wheat	bu	---	3.56	---	3.34	---	3.39
Rice, Rough	cwt	---	6.99	---	7.59	---	7.49
All Milk	cwt	---	14.40	---	15.50	---	15.80
Fluid	cwt	---	14.40	---	15.50	---	15.80
Manufacturing	cwt	---	13.80	---	14.70	---	15.20
All Beef Cattle	cwt	---	93.40	---	86.10	---	84.20
Cows	cwt	---	47.70	---	49.90	---	48.60
Calves	cwt	---	111.00	---	126.00	---	124.00
Steers & Heifers	cwt	---	99.90	---	91.00	---	89.10
All Hogs	cwt	---	34.70	---	52.10	---	55.30
Barrows & Gilts	cwt	---	34.90	---	52.60	---	55.80
Sows	cwt	---	29.10	---	42.40	---	44.50
Broilers, Live	lb	---	.370	---	.390	---	.390
Market Eggs	doz	.920 ²	.925 ²	.260 ²	.303 ²	.460	.439

--- Estimates not made.

¹ Based on sales during the first half of the month.

² Mid-month prices.